Government of East Bengal

COMMERCE, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES

Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1926, in East Bengal, for the year ending 31st March 1948.

Superintendent, Government Printing,
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1950

Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1926, in East Bengal, for the year ending 31st March 1948.

1. This report covers the year beginning from the 1st April 1947 and ending on the 31st March 1948. Four and a half months coming within the year under review elapsed when partition of the Province took place consequent on the creation of the Dominion of Pakistan. I held charge of the office of the Registrar under the Act in undivided Bengal also.

2. After the partition the head offices of altogether 56 Unions fell within the Province of East Bengal, according to notional division. But after the Radcliffe Award the total number falling within East Bengal including Sylhet was reduced by 1, *i.e.*, it stood at 55. Eighteen more unions were registered during the year after partition but of the total number of the unions registration of 10 were cancelled for their failure to submit their annual returns or for ceasing to exist. Annual returns were, therefore, due from 63 unions of which only 36 were received up to the time of the preparation of the report. Out of these 36 returns, 27 were found to be acceptable after scrutiny. The annexed statistical tables are accordingly based on these 27 unions.

3. With a view to educating the union in the matter of keeping their account books and membership registers properly and up to date and facilitating submission of returns in time, Labour Officers were deputed to inspect their offices under the provision of Regulation 7A of the Bengal Trade Unions Regulations. But inspite of such efforts the annual returns were received only from 36 out of 63 unions. The cause is not far to seek. Most of the union officials are either ignorant of how to maintain books and registers or are not conscious enough of the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them. Though explicit and detailed instructions were issued to the unions regarding preparation of their returns, very few returns could be found to be without any defects. In many cases it was only by calling the union officials to this office that the defects could be explained and removed. If it was permissible under law I would have forced unions to have at least one such person on the executive who was fully trained in and conversant with the provisions of law concerning maintenance of registers and submission of returns.

4. Statement A shows the composition of the membership, the income and expenditure, and the opening and closing balances of the General Fund of the unions. Statement B relates to the particulars of Federations of trade unions on the register, if any. Statements C, D, E and F shows by industrial groups, membership, income, expenditure and closing balances of the unions from which returns have been received.

5. **Membership.**—The total membership of the 27 unions was 11,084. Of this total 44 can be assigned to employers' organisation and the rest, *i. e.*, 11,040 to workers organisations.

6. **Income.**—The tatal income of the said unions was Rs. 26,756-5-3 out of which Rs. 3,417-14 can be attributed to the employers' organisation.

7. **Expenditure.**—The total expenditure of the unions submitting returns was Rs. 21,898-15-10, and for the employees' unions alone the figure was Rs. 18,338-2-10. Most of the expenditure is on account of establishment charges and very little for benefits directly distributed to members. It may be mentioned ere that one union (Chattagram Jalkal Sramik Union) did not spend anything and the entire amount collected was kept as balance at the end of the year.

8. **Funds of Trade Unions.**—The total balance at the credit of 26 of the 27 unions at the close of year was Rs.11,156 5-9 the remaining one union closed with a deficit balance.

9. **Appeal.**—No appeal was lodged during the year under section 11 of the Act against any decision of the Registrar.

10. **Cancellation of Certificates.**—The certificates of 10 unions were cancelled for their failute to comply with he provisions of the Act.

11. **General Remarks.**—The trade union movement in East Bengal is in a nascent state and the unions did not function properly so far as the observance of the provisions of the Act is concerned. Even before the partition this part of the Province was less organised than the highly industrialised area in and around Calcutta which is apparent from the fact that out of about 1,100 unions in undivided Bengal head offices of only 56 fell within East Bengal at the time of partition.

S. A. E. B. MURSHEDI,

Registrar of Trade Unions, East Bengal.

Annual returns of registered Trade Unions in East Bengal for the year ending 31st March 1948.

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Annual returns of registered Trade Unions in East

Name of the Union with the date of registration.	Number of Members. At the beginning of the year.	Joined during year.	Left during year.	At the end of the year. Males.	Females.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I						
Railways and Transport other than Tramways.						
1. Noakhali Motor Association, 14-5-30 (*a*).	45	...	1	44	..	44
2. Rajshahi Motor Union, 27-9-32 (a)	Return received but not acceptable.					
3. Dacca B. A. Railway Mazdoor Sangha, 31-3-44.	Cancelled on 23-8-48.					
4. Rickshaw Drivers' Union, Barisal, 7-8-45.	Return Received but not acceptable.					
5. Dacca Distr ct Rickshaw Pullers' Union.	Cancelled on 31-12-46.					
6. Faridpur District Cycle Rickshaw Drivers' Union, 9-5-46.	125	30	40	115	...	115
7. Naogaon Tom Tom Drivers' Union, 9-5-46.	Cancelled on 7-7-48.					
8. Rajshahi Tom Tom Workers' Union, 3-12-46.	93	99	..	192	...	192
9. Jessore District Motor Workers' Union, 3-5-47.	Return not received.					
10. Chittagong Motor Drivers' and Workers' Union, 27-9-47.	115	208	...	323	..	323
11. Pakistan Railwaymen's League, 18-10-47.	Return received but not acceptable.					
12. Eastern Bengal Railway Employees' Association, 10-11-47.	Return not received.					
13. E. B. Railway Employees' League, 10-11-47.	Ditto.					
14. Tippera District Motor Workers' Union, 12-1-48.	Return received but not acceptable.					
15. Faridpur District Motor Drivers Association, 3-5-47.	Return not received.					
16. Eastern Pakistan Railway Employees' League, 17-1-48.	Return received but not acceptable.					
17. Pabna Motor Employees' Association, 7-3-48.	Ditto.					
18. Eastern Pakistan Railwaymen's Association, 13-3-48.	Return not received.					
19. Pakistan Railwaymen's Union, 13-3-48.	Ditto.					
Total ...	378	337	41	674	...	674

Tramways (II).

Nil.

MENT A

Bengal for the year ending 31st March 1948.

Subscription to political fund.	General Fund. Opening Balance.	Income.	Expenditure.	Closing Balance.	Political Fund.
8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
..	477 10 0	3,417 14 0	3,560 13 0	334 11 0	..
...	177 2 0	346 0 0	512 4 0	10 14 0	..
...	109 7 0	110 9 0	90 0 0	130 0 0	...
...	...	2,356 0 0	2,347 9 0	8 7 0	...
...	764 3 0	6,230 7 0	6,510 10 0	484 0 0	...

Name of the Union with the date of registration.	Number of Members. At the beginning of the year.	Joined during year.	Left during year.	At end of year. Males.	Females.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Textiles (III).						
1. Textile Workers' Union, Kushtia, 8-4-37.	1,161	1,16	69	1,177	31	1,208
2. Dacca District Textile Workers' Union, 16-11-42.	3646	404	..	4,021	29	4,050
3. Cotton Mills Workers' Union, Khulna, 11-12-42.	Return not received.					
4. Textile Workers' Union, Chittaranjan Cotton Mill, 17-8-44.	Cancelled on 31-12-46.					
5. East Bengal Textile Workers' Union, 4-10-44.	Cancelled on 31-12-46.					
6. East Bengal Weavers' Association, 26-12-44.	Return not received.					
7. Dhakeswari Textile Workers' Union No. 1 Mill, 21-11-45.	Ditto.					
8. Dhakeswari Textile Workers' Union No. 2 Mill, 21-11-45.	Ditto.					
9. No. I Dhakeswari Mills Labour Committee, 17-11-47.	Ditto.					
10. No. II Dhakeswari Mills Labour Committee, 17-11-47.	Return received but not acceptable.					
Total ..	4,807	520	69	5,198	60	5,258
Printing Press (IV).						
1. Dacca Press Workers' Union, 19-7-44.	*Cancelled on 25-8-48.*					
2. Barisal Press Workers' Union, 7-8 45.	Return not received.					
3. Chittagong Press Karmachari Samity, 28-5-47.	Return received but not acceptable.					
Total ...						
Municipal (V).						
1. Bogra Municipal Free Primary Teachers' Association, 31-7-41.	30	3	3	26	4	30
Total ..	30	3	3	26	4	30
Seamen (VI).						
1. Pakistan Seamen's Union, 4-2-48	..	395	...	395	...	395
Total ...	..	395	...	395	...	395
Dock and Port Trusts (VII).						
1. Dock Labour Union, Chittagong, 6-2-47.	500	100	72	528	..	528
2. Chittagong Port Mariners and Employees' Union.	..	250	4	246	..	246
3. Eastern Pakistan Jetty and Steamer Labour Union, 4-2-48.	...	1,080	..	1,080	...	1,080
Total ..	500	1,430	76	1,854	..	1,854

Subscription to political fund.	General Fund. Opening Balance.	General Fund. Income.	General Fund. Expenditure.	General Fund. Closing balance.	Political Fund.
8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
..	34 6 10	1,303 13 6	1,109 5 4	228 15 0	...
..	1,197 2 9	4,050 0 0	4,910 9 3	336 9 6	...
...	1,231 9 7	5,353 13 6	6,019 14 7	565 8 6	...
...	...	..	..	..	...
..	304 0 0	256 4 0	53 14 0	506 6 0	...
..	304 0 0	256 4 0	53 14 0	506 6 0	...
..	...	1,283 15 0	1,277 0 0	6 15 0	
..	...	1,283 15 0	1,277 0 0	6 15 0	...
...	218 14 0	522 10 0	732 2 0	9 6 0	...
...	..	772 12 0	312 11 6	460 0 6	...
...	...	1,457 8 0	1,081 14 0	375 10 0	...
..	218 14 0	2,752 14 0	2,126 11 6	845 0 6	...

Name of the Union with the date of registration.	Number of Members. At the beginning of the year.	Joined during year.	Left during year.	At end of year. Males.	Females.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Engineering (VIII).						
1. Engineering Workers' Union, Kushtia, 7-3-48.	...	116	6	110	..	110
Total ...	...	116	6	110	...	110
Miscellaneous (IX).						
1. Narayanganj Labour Association, 25-9-39.	700	300	...	1,000	...	1,000
2. Chaumuhani Labour Union, 25-11-39.		Return not received.				
3. Dacca District Electric Supply Workers' Union, 6-2-43.		Return received but not acceptable.				
4. Dacca District Scavengers' Union, 15-2-43.		Return not received.				
5. Chittagong Cha Bagan Mazdoor Union, 1-4-43.	1,011	39	...	658	392	1,050
6. Dacca District Water Supply and Sewer pumping Workers' Union, 28-9-43.		Return not received.				
7. Charmugria Madaripore Jute Press Workers' Union, 31-5-44.		Ditto.				
8. Mymensingh Electric Workers' Union, 30-8-44.		Cancelled on 31-12-46.				
9. Biri Sramik Union, 4-10-44.		Return not received.				
10. Natore Cloth Merchants' Association, 9-11-44.		Cancelled on 31-12-46.				
11. Dacca District Hosiery Workers' Union.	228	7	101	134	...	134
12. Biri Workers' Union, Barisal, 7-8-45.		Return not received.				
13. Dacca Cydrale Factory Workers' Union, 17-9-45.		Cancelled on 31-12-46.				
14. Faridpore District Biri Workers' Union, 27-9-45.	183	56	29	210	...	210
15. District Union Board Clerks' Association, Noakhali, 24-11-45.	66	9	3	72	...	72
16. Dacca Mitford Hospital Workers' Union.		Return not received.				
17. P. W. D. Workers' Union, Dacca, 3-12-45.		Ditto.				
18. Hardeo Glass Workers' Union, 4-1-46.		Return received but not acceptable.				
19. Dacca District Dokan Karmachari Association, 4-1-46.	460	101	236	325	...	325
20. Dacca Shops Assistants' Association, 28-1-46.	138	46	76	108	...	108
21. Comilla Shop Assistants' Union, 15-7-46.		Return not received.				
22. Mymensingh Dhangar Union, 6-8-46.		Ditto.				
Carried over ...						

Subscription to political fund.	General Fund. Opening Balance.	Income.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.	Political Fund.
8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
...	...	113 0 0	48 13 0	64 3 0	
..	...	113 0 0	48 13 0	64 3 0	
..	248 4 0	1,425 0 0	992 12 0	680 8 0	
...	30 13 3	1,050 0 0	1,049 13 3	31 0 0	...
...	75 0 0	147 14 3	172 11 0	50 3 3	...
...	133 1 6	151 8 0	215 9 6	69 0 0	...
...	55 3 0 (Deficit)	163 4 0	166 15 0	58 14 0 (Deficit)	..
..	829 2 6	794 6 0	197 4 3	1,426 4 0	...
..	42 0 6	122 4 0	81 4 6	83 0 0	...

Name of the Union with the date of registration.	Number of members.					
	At the beginning of the year.	Joined during year.	Left during year.	At the end of the year.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Brought forward ...						
23. Chattagram Jalkal Sramik Union, 6-8-46.	46	...	5	41	...	41
24. Pabna District Biri Workers' Union, 13-8-46.	342	..	7	335	...	335
25. Khulna Matsyajibi Samity.	Return not received.					
26. Pabna Hosiery Workers' Association, 12-12-46.	Ditto.					
27. B. O. C. (I. T.), Ltd., Labour Union, Chittagong, 14-1-47.	513	337	...	850	...	850
28. Pabna Electric Supply Employees' Union, 6-2-47.	36	12	10	38	...	38
29. Oriental Life Office Employees' Association, Dacca, 8-5-47.	82	7	7	82	...	82
30. Chittagong Saw Mill Workers' Union, 38-5-47.	Cancelled on 26-7-48.					
31. Employees' Association, Dacca, 31-5-47.	295	96	142	249	...	249
32. Dacca University Employees' Union, 10-7-47.	Return received but not acceptable.					
33. Carew Workers' Union, 9-12-47.	Return not received.					
34. Shop Assistants Association, Chittagong, 13-1-48.	...	535	122	413	...	413
35. East Pakistan Cinema Workers' Union, 7-3-48.	40	...	...	40	...	40
Total ...	2,201	1,199	738	2,763	...	2,763
Grand Total ...	7,916	4,000	933	11,020	64	11,084

(a) Employers' and businessmen's Organisations.

(b) Workers 'Organisations.

Subscription to political fund.	General Fund. Opening Balance.	General Fund. Income.	General Fund. Expenditure.	General Fund. Closing Balance.	Political Fund.
8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
...	211 3 6	65 12 0	...	276 15 6	..
...	26 15 0	418 12 0	419 2 6	26 8 6	...
..	1,400 0 0	3,358 2 0	934 1 0	3,824 1 0	...
...	165 14 0	286 8 0	42 3 0	410 3 0	...
...	150 10 0	2,024 10 9	838 2 6	1,337 2 3	...
...	520 4 9	304 1 9	396 14 0	427 8 6	...
...	2 3 9	393 5 0	314 0 3	81 8 6	...
...	...	60 8 0	41 4 0	19 4 0	...
...	3,780 5 9	10,765 15 9	5,862 0 9	8,684 4 9	...
...	6,299 0 4	26,756 5 3	21,898 15 10	11,156 5 9	...

STATEMENT B.

Annual returns of Federations registered up to 31-3-48.

NIL.

STATEMENT C.

Membership of registered Trade Unions, 1947—48.

Group.		Number of returns, 1947-48.	Total membership on 31-3-48.	Average membership on 31-3-48.	Number of returns, 1946-47.	Total membership on 31-3-41.	Average membership on 31-3-47.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Railways and Transport othar than Tramways.		4	674	168			
	(a)	1	44	44			
	(b)	3	630	210			
2. Tramways	...	...	..	...			
3. Textile	...	2	5,258	2,629			
	(a)	...	...	...			
	(b)	2	5,258	2,629			
4. Printing Presses	...	...	..	..			
5. Municipal	...	1	30	30		Not available.	
6. Seamen	...	1	395	395			
7. Docks and Port Trust		3	1,854	618			
8. Engineering	...	1	110	110			
9. Miscellaneous	...	15	2,763	184			
	(a)	...	..	...			
	(b)	15	2,763	184			
Total	...	27	11,084	411			
(a) Employers' Organisations.		1	44	..			
(b) Workers' Organisations.		26	11,040	425			

STATEMENT D.

Income of registered Trade Unions, 1947-48.

Group.	Number of returns, 1947-48.	Total income during 1947-48.			Average income during 1947-48.			Average income per member during 1947-48.			Number of returns, 1946-47.	Total income during 1946-47.	Average income during 1946-47.	Average income per member during 1946-47
1	2	3			4			5			6	7	8	9
		Rs.	as.	p.	Rs.	as.	p.	Rs.	as.	p.				
1. Railways and Transport other than Tramways.	4	6,230	7	0	1,550	14	0	9	4	0				
(a)	1	3,417	14	0	...			...						
(b)	3	2,812	9	0	937	8	0	4	3	0				
2. Tramways ..	..	...			...			...						
3. Textile ...	2	5,353	13	6	2,676	14	9	1	0	0				
(a)	...	...			...			...						
(b)	2	5,353	13	6	2,676	14	9	1	0	0				
4. Printing Press ..	...	...			...			...						
5. Municipal ..	1	256	4	0	256	4	0	8	9	0		Not avilable.		
6. Seamen ..	1	1,283	15	0	1,283	15	0	3	4	0				
7. Docks and Port Trusts	3	2,752	14	0	917	10	0	1	8	0				
8. Engineering ..	1	113	0	0	113	0	0	1	0	0				
9. Miscellaneous ..	15	10,765	15	9	717	11	0	4	0	0				
(a)	..	...			...			...						
(b)	15	10,765	15	9	...			4	0	0				
Total	27	26,756	5	3	990	15	7	2	6	7				
(a) Employers and businessmen's Organisations.	1	3,417	14	0	3,417	14	0	...						
(b) Workers' Organisations.	26	23,338	7	3	897	10	1	2	1	1				

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Expenditure of registered

Group.	Salaries, allowances and expenses of officers.	Salaries, allowances and expenses of establishment.	Auditor's fee.	Legal expenses.	Expenses in conducting trade disputes.	Compensation paid to member for loss arising out of trade disputes.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Railways and Transport other than Tramways.	404 3 6	2,344 0 0	..	1,031 9 0	...	...
2. Tramways ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Textiles ...	985 0 0	332 11 9	30 0 0	1,441 5 6	10 0 0	...
4. Printing Presses ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Municipal ...	...	6 0 0	...	...	...	...
6. Seamen ...	90 10 6	190 6 0	...	...	...	...
7. Docks and Port Trusts ...	955 0 0	364 6 0	...	...	...	...
8. Engineering ...	...	19 9 0	...	...	...	...
9. Miscellaneous ...	662 14 0	1,090 0 9	55 0 0	201 15 0	30 6 0	10 0 0
Total ...	3,097 12 0	4,347 1 6	85 0 0	2,674 13 6	40 6 0	10 0 0

(*a*) Employers' and businessmen's Organisations.

(*b*) Workers' Organisations.

MENT E.

Trade Unions,—1947-48.

Funeral, oldage, sickness unemployment benefit, etc.	Educational, social and religious benefit, etc.	Cost of publishing periodicals.	Rents, rate and taxes.	Stationery, printing and postage.	Expenses incurred under section 15 (j) of the I. T. U. Act.	Other expenses.	Total.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
...	3 2 6	50 0 0	237 0 0	786 13 0	..	1,623 14 0	6,510 10 0
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
26 0 0	91 2 6	109 3 0	142 0 0	531 14 6	547 14 6	1,772 10 10	6,019 14 7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
...	...	...	...	25 0 0	...	22 14 0	53 14 0
...	...	50 13 6	50 0 0	237 3 0	...	657 15 0	1,277 0 0
...	...	30 0 0	41 14 0	92 3 6	57 0 0	186 4 6	2,126 11 6
...	...	...	...	24 4 0	...	5 0 0	48 13 0
26 0 0	71 0 0	144 8 0	638 0 0	742 2 0	182 6 0	2,007 13 0	5,862 0 9
52 0 0	195 5 0	384 8 6	1,508 14 0	2,439 7 6	787 4 6	6,276 7 4	21,898 15 10

STATEMENT F.

General Funds of registered Trade Unions, 1947-48.

Groups.	Number of returns, 1947-48.	Total Funds on 31-3-48.	Average Fund per member on 31-3-48.	Number of returns, 1946-47.	Total Funds on 31-3-47.	Average Fund per member on 31-3-47.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
1. Raiways and Transport other than Tramways.	4	484 0 0	0 11 6	Not available.		
(a)	1	334 11 0	..			
(b)	3	149 5 0	...			
2. Tramways ...	...	...	..			
3. Textiles ..	2	665 8 6	0 1 8			
(a)	...	...	...			
(b)	2	565 8 6	...			
4. Printing Presses..	...	...	...			
5. Municipal ..	1	506 6 0	16 11 0			
6. Seamen ..	1	6 15 0	0 0 3			
7. Docks and Port Trusts .	3	845 0 6	0 7 0			
8. Engineering ..	1	64 3 0	0 9 0			
9. Miscellaneous ..	15	8,683 12 9	1 0 0			
(a)	..	..	...			
(b)	15	8,683 12 9	1 0 0			
Total ...	27	11,156 5 9	1 0 1			
(a) Employers' Organisations ..	1	334 11 0	...			
(b) Workers' Organisations ...	26	10,821 10 9	0 15 5			

EBGP-50/51-589B-150.